

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [00101] with the following paragraph:

[00101] The present invention provides novel compositions containing a SCA-2 (spinocerebellar ataxia 2) therapeutic element, which is involved in the regulation normal body weight and may be administered for the prevention of an abnormal accumulation of body fat. In particular the compositions and methods of the present invention may be used for the prevention or reversal of obesity.